

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/649,092

Examiner

Milap Shah

Applicant(s)

MEAD, RANDALL D.

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/27/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-47.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 2/7/05 & 3/17/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Reasons for Allowance***

Claims 1-47 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Independent claims 1, 9, 17, 23, 29 & 34 are considered to recite the same gaming device in various instances and independent claims 39, 42 & 45 are considered to recite the same method implemented on the gaming device in various instances. A thorough search of prior art fails to disclose any reference or references, which, taken alone or in combination teach or suggest, the invention claimed in claims 1-47. Specifically, prior art fails to teach or suggest, performing the following steps, if need be, after a triggering event has occurred (as in claims 9, 17 & 34): positioning each said picked selection at the lowest ranked unoccupied position of said selection group that said picked selection is initially associated with, and modifying the associated selection group of at least one of the picked selections to a different one of said selection groups if the player rejects said offer, wherein at least one of the picked selections is repositioned to the lowest ranked unoccupied position of said different selection group.

The prior art of record (inclusive in the information disclosure statements provided) teach or suggest accepting or rejecting an offer. The closest prior art is Baerlocher (U.S. Patent 6,375,187), which discloses a gaming device having an improved offer and acceptance bonus scheme. Baerlocher also discloses enabling a player to pick selections and enable a player to accept or reject the offer associated with the picked selections. However,

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Baerlocher fails to teach or suggest the positioning of said picked selections at the lowest unoccupied position of the selection group and modifying selection groups of at least one of the picked selections to a different one of said selection groups if certain criteria has been met. The patent given to Baerlocher and Applicant's patent application also has a common assignee, providing the reason for the underlying concept of accepting or rejecting an offer in each, as common subject matter.

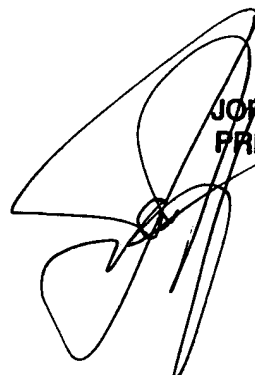
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milap Shah whose telephone number is (571) 272-1723. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl Tyler can be reached on (571) 272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M.B.S.



JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER